

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 20289 161107Z

20

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 161058Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5119

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, GW

SUBJ: EXXON NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENT FABRICATION PLANT
IN THE FRG

1. A GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE EXXON NUCLEAR COMPANY CALLED AT THE EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 8 TO BRIEF THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THEIR PROGRAM IN THE FRG. A SITE FOR A FUEL ELEMENT FABRICATION PLANT HAS BEEN SELECTED AT LINGEN ABOUT 50 KM NORTH OF MUENSTER. THE PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIONS. EXXON WILL MAKE ITS FINAL DECISION THIS SUMMER AND PERMISSION TO CONSTRUCT THE PLANT IS EXPECTED IN FALL 1976.

2. THE PLANT WOULD DELIVER ITS FIRST FUEL ELEMENTS IN 1978. THE FIRST TWO STAGES OF THE PLANT WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF ONE-HALF TON URANIUM DIOXIDE PER DAY. BY 1985 EXXON INVESTMENTS WILL TOTAL \$40 MILLION. THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 20289 161107Z

PLANT SHOULD HAVE ABOUT 280 EMPLOYEES AND SATISFY ABOUT

ONE-FOURTH OF THE FUEL ELEMENT MARKET IN NORTHERN EUROPE.

3. INITIALLY THE PLANT WILL FABRICATE FUEL ELEMENTS FROM LOW-ENRICHMENT UF-6. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION EXXON OFFICIALS SPECULATED THAT THE PLANT COULD BE MODIFIED TO HANDLE PLUTONIUM-BEARING FUELS AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE BUT THIS POSSIBILITY WAS NOT RPT NOT MENTIONED DURING THE SITING HEARINGS.

4. EXXON OFFICIALS ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE FRG MAY CONSTRUCT ITS PLANNED CHEMICAL REPROCESSING FACILITY IN THE LINGEN AREA. IF SO, THEY THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT EXXON WOULD ATTEMPT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS FACILITY, WHICH COULD SERVE A REGIONAL NEED, IF USG POLICIES PERMITTED.

5. EMBASSY NOTE: THE FRG IS CONSIDERING CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGE REPROCESSING PLANT IN THE EARLY 1980S. THE SITE OF THIS PLANT HAS NEVER BEEN MENTIONED PUBLICLY. SOME FRG OFFICIALS CONSIDER POSSIBLE SITES A "SECRET" TOPIC TO AVOID PREMATURE "ENVIRONMENTAL" ACTIONS.
HILLENBRAND

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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